

ESCANABA TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMISSION

October 7, 2019 Meeting

Escanaba Township Planning Commission meeting was called to order by Jack Penegor at 7:30 p.m., at the Escanaba Township Hall. Pledge of allegiance was led by Jack Penegor.

ROLL CALL: Jack Penegor, Ray Hughes, Norm Fleury, Tom Rymkos, Barry King, Cliff Barron and Ann LaBumbard were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes for September 5, 2019 and September 116, 2019 was made by Ann LaBumbard, seconded by Barry King and approved by all.

Cliff Barron: it was wrong for the public to give Jean Lacour a hard time while she was talking. There will be no heckling here tonight. Respect for all.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Zoning Permits: Anthony Mathias garage. Todd Zeise house addition. Mike Clairmont out building. Daniel Caron new home. Joelle Robors Garage: sent back. Five (5) foot from the road isn't permitted.

Blight Report: R. LaBumbard didn't show up for the second court appearance. Has missed 2 court appearances. Trying to get in touch with Mr. R. LaBumbard.

Board Update: We need another member for the commission. The ordinance was returned to the commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Fred Asbery Start over with ordinance. Mary Luft: No one is looking into things. Theresa Norman: Ray Hughes and Cliff Barron should not be able to vote. Conflict of office. FOIA request on research done by Planning Commission. Deb Balding Ordinance and changes should be voted by the people. Bill Castle: Dooms day predictions were wrong. Don't let this pull the community apart. Warren Bovin: we don't want a solar farm. They can put it on public land. Robert Barron wants to be on the agenda. Gary Way: work on the ordinance and clean it up

AGENDA: Add Robert Barron, Dale Richie, Rene Richie, Scott Knauf. Move New Business in front of Old Business. Add Cliff Barron addressing answers given to complaints. Motion was made by Ann LaBumbard to accept the agenda with the changes seconded by Norm Fleury approved by all.

NEW BUSINESS: Fred Minor, John Bergman, Lawyer. We are asking for proper procedures to be followed. Mrs. Williams we were told as long as there wasn't a party over 225 people, they didn't need a permit.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams will need to apply special use permit.

SHOOTING RANGE: Talks are on going with their lawyer. There will be a formal application request, for a dimensional variance, because there isn't 40 acers. This will only apply to the pistol range, berm, and shooting building. This process will take a while yet, as there will be sight plans, notices, neighbors to be contacted, public hearing,

public comment.

ANSWERING COMPLAINTS: Cliff Barron we need to address and answer complaints. The parties need to be notified of our decisions. A year ago August there was a complaint given to us. The Bob Beauchamp house had to be cleaned up, grass cut in 30 days. It wasn't done so the Planning Commission voted it should be taken down. This recommendation was sent to the Board to act on. There has been no improvement to the property. Trustee Al Gareau will check on the condition of the home. The Planning Commission has sent the same recommendation to the Board again. We need to send a letter to the people who complained, so they know what is going on.

SOLAR ORDINANCE: Board sent it back to the Planning Commission, concerns with Ground Water Contamination, agriculture land, and more. Jack Penegor would like to set up an Ad Hoc Committee. It will be made up of an even number of people for and against solar. There will be one person who is neutral. Cliff Barron made a motion to set up an Ad Hoc Committee with 3-4 people and a neutral person in this committee. Needed would be specialist in water, geology. Seconded by Ann LaBumbard, approved by all. This will be published in the paper. There will be 21 days to send in your reply to the ad. There is information on Michigan.gov/ solar guide. Their job would be to investigate, and make recommendation to the Planning Commission. The meetings will be Closed. The public will not attend.

Scott Knauf: I would like to be on this Ad Hoc Committee for the Landscaping part of the ordinance. I don't think Orion should have a say in the ordinance, this should be up to the township.

Kim Wyckoff: decommissioning of a solar panels.

Rene Richie: objects to the public not being included in the meetings. Michigan Dept. of Energy Great Lake Energy of the University of Michigan Can assist with case studies, questions and more. Sara Mills would come up and talk to the public if requested.

Robert Barron: has no comment at this time.

Dale Richie: In light of what was said at this meeting. I have nothing to add at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next Planning Commission Meeting is November 4, 2019 7:30 p.m. at the Escanaba Township Hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Vicki Gobert, Claudia Bradfield, Larry Klope, Paul Bradfield, Cliff Barron, Jack Penegor.

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn was made by Cliff Barron, seconded by Norm Fleury approved by all. Adjourned at 9:28 p.m.